

Message Text

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ORIGIN LAB-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

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AID-05 OES-05 NAS-01 NSF-02 OPIC-06 FAA-00 ERDA-07

NSC-05 SS-15 /094 R

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APPROVED BY NEA/IRN/STATE:CNAAS

ILAB/LABOR:JSEGALL

ETA/LABOR:WBHEWITT (INFO)

ILAB/LABOR:PKPASCHKE (INFO)

OE/HEW:CBUZZELL (INFO)

ILAB/LABOR:DCLAZORCHICK

ILAB/LABOR:BMERSON (INFO)

ILAB/LABOR:SMJUSTICE

NEA/IRN/STATE:RBEALES

----- 097417

P 232324Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 043317

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, USIRJC, IR

SUBJECT: MERSON CONSULTATIVE MISSIONS TO IRAN

REFERENCES: (A) TEHRAN 1750, (B) TEHRAN A201, (C) STATE

----- 280165, (D) STATE 296187

1. DOL HAS NO OBJECTION IF EMBASSY BELIEVES AGAIN
NECESSARY TO PROVIDE NASSERI WITH JUSTIFICATION AND
EXPLANATION DOL POSITION RE SUPPORTING SERVICE CHARGES
FOR FUTURE MERSON MISSIONS TO IRAN (REF A).

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2. F.Y.I. ALTHOUGH DOL DOES NOT WISH TO OFFEND NASSERI OR TO APPEAR NEEDLESSLY CATEGORICAL, CHARGES FOR SUPPORTING SERVICES (OVERHEAD) ARE THE SINE QUA NON OF CONTINUED DOL PARTICIPATION IN USIRJC TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES. DOL BELIEVES IT HAS DEMONSTRATED REASONABLENESS AND FLEXIBILITY IN THIS REGARD BY NOT CHARGING GOI FOR SUPPORTING SERVICES MERSON'S DECEMBER '75 - JANUARY '76 VISIT. HOWEVER, DOL INDICATED IT WOULD MAKE MERSON'S SERVICES AVAILABLE ONLY ONCE ON THIS BASIS (REF C) AND IT IS NOW UNWILLING TO MAKE FURTHER EXCEPTIONS LEST UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT BE SET. END F.Y.I.

3. RATIONALE FOR SUPPORTING SERVICE CHARGES HAS BEEN DISCUSSED FREQUENTLY WITH NASSERI. HOWEVER, RE POINTS 1 AND 2 ON WHICH EMBASSY SEEKS GUIDANCE, IT MAY BE HELPFUL TO REITERATE THAT WHILE SERVING AS A DOL CONSULTANT MERSON MUST FUNCTION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY AND REGULATIONS WHICH SET FORTH EXPLICITLY THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS GOVERNING HIS EMPLOYMENT. MOREOVER, DOL HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO CHARGE FOR SUPPORTING SERVICES WHENEVER ITS FULLTIME EMPLOYEES OR CONSULTANTS PROVIDE TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN ANOTHER COUNTRY, WHETHER UNDER AUSPICES OF AID OR THE SAUDI ARABIA JOINT COMMISSION. GOI SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS NOT RPT NOT BEING SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT IN THIS REGARD. IT SHOULD ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THESE CHARGES ARE MADE TO COVER INDIRECT COSTS WHICH DOL INCURS IN PROVIDING TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR WHICH CONGRESS APPROPRIATES NO RPT NO FUNDS. EXAMPLES OF THESE SERVICES WHICH EMBASSY REQUESTED (REF A) MAY BE FOUND PART II, SECTION A, REF B.

4. EMBASSY MAY WISH DIPLOMATICALLY TO REMIND NASSERI THAT PART II, SECTION A OF THE USIRJC MANPOWER COMMITTEE REPORT WHICH HE SIGNED IN SEPTEMBER 1975, STATES THAT QTE BOTH DIRECT AND SUPPORTING SERVICES UNQTE ARE INCLUDED IN TECHNICAL COOPERATION COST ESTIMATES AND THAT EXAMPLES OF BOTH TYPES OF SERVICES ARE GIVEN. AS EMBASSY KNOWS, SECTION B OF THIS REPORT FORMALIZED THE PROGRAM CONSULTANT POSITION AND INCLUDED IT AS ONE OF 15 DISCRETE TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN.

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5. ADDITIONALLY, EMBASSY SPECIFICALLY WAS REQUESTED 26 NOVEMBER 1975 (REF C), TO QTE PLEASE CONVEY TO GOI THAT ALL SUBSEQUENT SERVICES PERFORMED BY MERSON AND OTHER USIRJC EXPERTS MUST BE COMPENSATED BY GOI AT SALARY AND BENEFIT LEVELS CONSISTENT WITH USG REGULATION(S) AND INCLUDE CHARGES FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES UNQTE. REF D, DATED 16 DECEMBER 1975, CONTAINED SIMILAR LANGUAGE. FOR

THESE REASONS, DOL WOULD NOT EXPECT NASSERI TO BE SURPRIS-
ED OR FEEL DOL WAS ACTING ARBITRARILY IN TREATMENT OF
HIS OPTIONS FOR MERSON COMPENSATION.

6. DOL TRUSTS FOREGOING WILL BE HELPFUL TO EMBASSY AND
EXPRESSES IN ADVANCE ITS APPRECIATION FOR ASSISTANCE IN
THIS DELICATE MATTER. INGERSOLL

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